approximately 0% to 40% by weight filler, wherein the non-woven fibres and the resin are found in specific proportions with the filler.

2. A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the average length of the fibres is at most 120 mm.

3. A friction material according to Claim 2, wherein the fibres are chosen from the group consisting of glass, wool, cotton, ceramic, polyacrylonitrile, preoxidized polyacrylonitrile and aramid.

4. (Three Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim 3 [further including] , wherein the filler [fillers] is in powder form and incorporated into the mat.

5. (Two Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim 4, wherein [said fillers in powder form are] the filler is selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber and diatoms.

6. (Three Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim 4 [further including] [fillers] , wherein the filler is in the form of pulps and incorporated into the mat.

7. (Three Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim 6, wherein [said fillers in pulp form are] the filler is selected from the group consisting of the pulps of glass, aramid, acrylic and phenolic fibres.

9. A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is resol-based.

10. A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein latex is added to the thermosetting resin.

11. (Five Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim 1 [further including] [fillers] , wherein the filler is in powder form and incorporated into the

thermosetting resin, and wherein [said fillers in powder form are] the filler is selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber and diatoms.

25. (Two Times Amended) A friction material according to Claim 5 [further including] [fillers] , wherein the filler is in form of pulps and incorporated into the mat.

28. A friction material according to Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin includes a polar solvent, the polar solvent being an aqueous polar solvent.

33. (Amended) A friction material for a device employing friction in a liquid medium, the friction material comprising a mat of non-woven fibres impregnated with a thermosetting resin, wherein the friction material comprises by weight

approximately 20% to 40% fibres selected from the group consisting of glass, wool, cotton, ceramic, polyacrylonitrile, preoxidized polyacrylonitrile and aramid; [and]

approximately 40% to 60% thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of water-based resins, resol-based resins, phenolic plastic resins, aminoaldehyde resins, epoxy resins and polyimide resins; and

approximately 0% to 40% filler, wherein the fibres and the thermosetting resin are found in specific proportions with the filler.

34. The friction material according to Claim 33 wherein the fibres have an average length of between approximately 12 mm and 120 mm.

35. The friction material according to Claim 33 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, and 60% water-based resin.

36. The friction material according to Claim 33 that is by weight approximately 30% cotton fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, and 60% water-based resin.

37. (Two Times Amended) The friction material according to Claim 33 [further including] [fillers] , wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of copper, rockwool, carbon, zirconium silicate, iron sulphide, alumina, rubber, diatoms, glass, aramid, acrylic and phenolic fibres.

38. The friction material according to Claim 37 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, 10% carbon, 10% coke, and 40% resol-based resin.

39. (Amended) The friction material according to Claim 37 that is by weight approximately 20% glass fibres, 10% ceramic fibres, 10% polyacrylonitrile fibres, 10% copper, 10% rockwool, and 40% resol-based resin.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20, 22-25, and 27-39 are pending.

Claims 12-18, 20, 22-24, 27, and 29-32 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 25, 28, and 33-39 are rejected.

Claims 1 and 33 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 25, 33, and 37 are amended herein.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the claims captioned "CLAIMS MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" that details the changes made by the amendment.

Withdrawal of Suzuki as Prior Art Reference

Suzuki (US 5,823,314) has been withdrawn as a prior art reference based on the priority of the present application. The Applicants extend appreciation to the Office for the acknowledgement of priority, removal of the reference, and withdrawal of the rejection of the claimed invention based, in part, on Suzuki.